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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 12, 1860.

THE SOCIETY held their annual meeting this day, Thursday, April 12, at noon; JARED SPARKS, LL.D., one of the Vice-Presidents, in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; the City of Boston; Bowdoin College; Connecticut Historical Society; New-York Historical Society; J. L. Baker, Esq.; Rev. C. D. Bradlee; William F. Goodwin, Esq.; Dr. S. G. Howe; Hon. William C. Rives; Benjamin S. Shaw, M.D.; Rev. E. M. Stone; Rev. E. M. P. Wells; Sylvester D. Willard, M.D.; and from Messrs. Deane, Green, Holmes, Minot, Quint, Robbins, Savage, Sibley, Washburn, Webb, and Worcester, of the Society.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated letters from the Chicago Historical Society and the Historical Society of New Mexico.

The Cabinet-keeper presented a mourning-ring from Henry Guild, Esq., given at the death of Madam Belcher, bearing an inscription as follows, — “Ob’t. Oct. 6,

1736, Æ. 51;" for which donation to its museum, the thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Guild.

Mr. WASHBURN, on behalf of Dr. Lowell, presented a large package of manuscripts; for which the Corresponding Secretary was directed to communicate to the donor the Society's thanks.

Among the original papers in this valuable collection are the following letters:—

J[ohn] Hurd to Joshua Brackett.

HAVERHILL, 6th May, 1775.

DEAR SIR, — Since I wrote you a few lines per Mr. Wesson, our accounts from below have become more serious and interesting. We are now involved in the calamities of civil war to some purpose. The news of the engagement at Concord between the regulars and our militia soon reached us in this distant quarter of the Province, but was told so very differently, that we knew not what to depend upon, till the prints came up to us, which we have seen as late as the 27th April; and, while our blood chills at the relation of the barbarity of the English troops to their own countrymen, we burn to be among them, to assist, and, if possible, to revenge the innocent blood. But with pleasure we hear there's no want of hands or help. I congratulate with you on the success of the New-England forces hitherto, and think the general has no great cause to boast of his generalship. But we are full of anxiety for our friends in and about Boston, as we are told the town is invested by twenty or thirty thousand men, no provisions suffered to go in, and a doubt if General Gage will permit the inhabitants to go out with their effects; though 'tis reported he has at last consented, but not to carry any arms or ammunition. What will become of our numerous friends there, in this general confusion, I know not; and grieve for their misfortunes and trouble.

The bearer, Mr. Russell, has engaged in a journey down country, by my desire, to get the best information he can, and bring us the latest intelligence; and I have furnished a horse for the purpose, being under the greatest concern for our particular relations and friends: and I am very anxious to know what is passing at Ports-

month among my friends there. I beg you would write me by his return. He will acquaint you what the people have done here ; for we are not without apprehensions, however you below may think us secure and safe from present danger, that the Canadians may be turned upon us, with the help of some Indians, should General Gage require their assistance. We had a report here, a few days ago, that our *good little* Governor and lady had determined upon going to England, and were actually embarked ; but, the people refusing to let them carry off their effects, he changed his resolutions, and said he would tarry in the country, if the people would stand by and protect him. This I can hardly credit, for many reasons ; but wish there may be some truth in it. Pray, let me know ; and your sentiments, how the people are disposed since the rupture between the regulars and Massachusetts men.

Is our General Court like to meet this month ? I suppose, not. Can we expect the Superior Courts to set in the new counties ? I think, not ; nor any courts at all after this, till civil broils are ceased. I can't but think, should the Colonies continue united, the New-England forces will get the mastery of the regulars ; and that must certainly bring on a civil war in England, as soon as the advices reach them.

God send it may prove eventually happy for America ! but every serious thinking man must dread the fatal consequences.

I have run my letter beyond my bounds ; and am in haste too, — the bearer waiting. I hope Mrs. Brackett is well in health, and keeps up her courage in these perilous times. I wish my little cottage would serve for a safe retreat to her and several other good friends ; but 'tis impracticable at present. My best regards, with Mrs. Hurd's, attend you and her, Mrs. Whipple, and all friends that may inquire after us. God preserve you all through every danger, and to see better times !

Believe me very truly, dear sir, your affectionate friend and humble servant,

J. HURD.

William Whipple to Joshua Brackett.

APRIL 11, 1776.

MY DEAR SIR, — I received your favor of the 26th ult. You put a hard question ; viz., whether I am *thoroughly* acquainted with the members and important business of Congress. I can

only answer, that I have made myself as well acquainted as the time and my small capacity admit of. You'll see, by the late resolves of Congress, how we go on, and that we are every day drawing nearer the important question. You see, trade is open to all foreign countries, except *Great Britain and its dependencies*. One step more, and the point is settled. I congratulate you on the success of our small fleet. I have but an imperfect account of the matter; but no doubt you have the particulars ere now, as they arrived at New London. One of our cruisers (after an hour's engagement) took a tender mounting six carriage-guns and thirty-five picked men, commanded by the first lieutenant of the "Liverpool." Some men were killed and wounded on both sides. We have several small cruisers out, and going out, which I hope will give a good account of the petty pirates that infest the coast. The men-of-war at New York are not suffered to land on any pretence whatever: so they will be obliged to go as far as Virginia for water. A forty-gun ship, laying at the Capes of Delaware, is in the same situation. One of her lieutenants is a prisoner, and now on his way to this city. I hope the late act of the British Parliament will reconcile everybody to an eternal separation from a people abandoned to every vice, and whose rulers make cruelty and injustice the guide of all their actions. Lord Mansfield's speech points out what we are to expect from such barbarians. For my part, I see no alternative but freedom or slavery. Providence has kindly offered us our choice; and shall we hesitate which to accept? I hope, not. God forbid that an American should be animated with so base a soul as not to embrace the former with eagerness! The people of South Carolina look on the late act of Parliament as a declaration of war, and have seized a ship put in there to refit, bound from the West Indies to London. This was done before they knew of the resolves of Congress respecting that matter. Pray, write often, and let me know every thing that passes. How go on your town-meetings, committees, &c.? Tell Mrs. Brackett she must write to me. I have wrote you a letter of some length; but my present hurry won't permit me to look over it.

Your very affectionate friend, &c.,

WM. WHIPPLE.

My duty to mother. Let me know how she does.

William Whipple to Joshua Brackett.

PHILADELPHIA, 23d July, 1776.

MY DEAR SIR, — I received your favor of the 9th instant ; and shall forward the papers you desire, so soon as I can obtain them. A resolution for confiscating West-India property has been some time prepared ; but Congress has been so extremely engaged, they have not yet passed it.

What is Mr. King's reason for not accepting his appointment ? Is it that he is doubtful ? If that is the case, I think it a pity he should ever be noticed hereafter. It is high time that every one declared on one side or the other. He that is unwilling to take an active part with us ought to be looked upon as an enemy, and treated accordingly.

I congratulate you on the success of our arms at Carolina and Virginia ; for the particulars of which, must refer you to the newspapers which I enclose to Mr. Langdon. Lord Dunmore has now no place to lay his head, but is continually ferreted about Chesapeake Bay. It is probable, Lord Howe has sent some assistance to the pirates at South Carolina ; but they will be too late to do us any mischief *in that quarter*.

Our army on the Lakes are still in a very unhappy situation. I think there should be some scouting-parties on our frontiers. I very much wonder that was not ordered before the Court adjourned ; though I don't think that there is so much danger as to oblige the people to quit their farms : yet there ought to be a guard. The army at New York are, I believe, well prepared for the enemy. Lord Howe will meet a very warm reception if he thinks proper to make an attack. He has sent two flags ashore at York, with letters directed to George Washington, Esq. : but the general refused to receive them, they not being properly addressed ; which conduct is highly approved by Congress. However, his lordship sent a number of letters ashore at New Jersey. The circular-letters to the Governor you'll see a specimen of in the paper above referred to. He also wrote a friendly letter to Dr. Franklin ; to which the good old doctor has made a very suitable reply. Matters go on much better since we have got rid of that phantom reconciliation ; but we have still much to do. I hope due circumspection will be observed in each of the United States ; and that every one who has a hand in this *glorious* Revolution will consider, that the happiness of future generations, as well as the present, depends on their doings. It is our own fault if future generations do not call us blessed. Adieu !

Yours affectionately,

WM. WHIPPLE.

William Whipple to Joshua Brackett.

PHILADELPHIA, 29th July, 1776.

MY DEAR SIR, — It gives me pleasure to find that any part of my conduct meets your approbation. While I act in a public character, I shall ever consider myself so far a servant of the public as to obey whatever instructions I may receive from my constituents, provided they do not militate with the dictates of my own conscience. If they should, it would then be my duty to resign. Our General Court, no doubt, makes some wild steerage; and, considering all circumstances, it is not to be wondered at. However, if the virtuous few will exercise patience and perseverance, I make no doubt we shall have matters settled on the true principles of liberty. Perhaps it may take some time to do this great work. I call it a great work; for, in my opinion, it is more difficult to reduce a society of men, who have drunk deep of waters of corruption, to the true principles of virtue, than to bring a society from the state of nature to the same meridian. Prudence and moderation, with a proper spirit, seasonably applied, will do great things; and, notwithstanding all the difficulties that now appear, I hope to see New Hampshire, in a few years, one of the happiest branches of the Great Republic. But this business can't be completed without some exertions; and it is the duty of every one to exert himself on this occasion. Every private consideration ought to give place to the public good. It would certainly give me more pleasure to hear that my great-grandfather had been instrumental in establishing a form of government that would entail happiness on future generations, than to hear he had left a great estate. But as I know you are nearly of my opinion on these matters, and as I have not time to enlarge, must bid you adieu.

W. WHIPPLE.

I intend to set out about the 10th of next month. Must refer you to the papers for news.

John Hurd to Joseph Whipple.

HAVERHILL, Nov. 19, 1776.

DEAR SIR, — Your favor of Sept. 8 I received when below at Exeter, and duly noticed the contents. Your observations respecting the ranging companies, and the manner of employing them on the roads, I entirely agree with; and, had it been in my power, should readily have assisted as you proposed: but, soon after the receipt of

your letter, I was informed that Captain Eames's Company had taken their discharge, the time of their enlistment being expired. We have had the consent of the Committee of Safety to employ the men this way on the public roads, and have kept them at work as well as we could, in such places as most needed it, by bridging and cross-laying ; but, after all, shall leave much undone. A party are now out on the roads between this and Upper Cohoos ; and, by desire of Captain Bucknam, I lately wrote to Lieutenant Bayley to set his men to work on the road from Lancaster, and to continue on, through Apthorp, till they met with our party. I did not know, till Bucknam informed me, that there were twenty-five men enlisted anew under Eames and Bayley, which were ordered, by the Committee of Safety at Exeter, to finish the fort in Lancaster ; but that the inhabitants of Lancaster would choose rather that these men might be employed to repair the roads between Upper and Lower Cohoos before the winter set in : and, as the time was so short during which the men would be in the service, they could not work effectually on this and the road you proposed. But, should there be further opportunity, you may depend I will exert myself to get you the help you so warmly press for. Indeed, I think you have been very ill used by the proprietors of the land through which you have made so long a road, especially Major Richardson.

But what influence I may have is very uncertain another season ; for, the more I exert myself to serve the people in this quarter, the more ingratitude I find among them : so that I have little expectation of going to the Assembly another year ; nor do I desire it, — had much rather be excused. Besides the trouble and fatigue of frequent journeys, my private business suffers greatly by my absence from home ; and, after all, no thanks from an ungrateful people. Some few, however, appear to be my friends, and, I believe, would be fond of my continuing in the Assembly ; thinking that I have been, and may be, of more service to this part of the country than any other they can choose hereabouts. The Dartmouth-College party are striving what they can to interrupt, and if possible to overset, our plan of government ; but I am much mistaken if they will make any great head. A few days may determine it. Their meeting by adjournment comes on to-morrow ; our choice of a representative, next week. I wish you would undertake for your district, and that the people would honor themselves by choosing you : I could then, with more pleasure, engage in the public business for this part

of the country, having so good an assistant at court. A great deal is wanted to be done for this poor people; and, if the war should continue, we shall be upon the most exposed frontier. I feel a disposition to enlarge, but have not time, and must be excused. I have brought Mrs. Hurd up again with me, though not without a good deal of reluctance; and I fear she'll not be happy here long, especially as I am going down to Exeter next week for our last sessions, and may be absent another month. She desires her kind compliments and regards to you with mine. Being with great esteem,

Dear sir, your sincere friend and most humble servant,

J. HURD.

If you intend for Portsmouth soon, I could wish to have you come round this way.

James Lovell to Joseph Whipple.

PHILADELPHIA, March 12, 1777.

MY DEAR SIR, — Yours of Jan. 22 did not come to hand till the 26th of February, at Baltimore, after our resolve to return to this city. Here I arrived last Wednesday, and omitted writing to you by one opportunity; expecting another of greater despatch, wherein I have been disappointed. Laugh not at this circumstantial detail: it is produced altogether as an opiate for my own sensibility. For I well recollect how much pleasure the receipt of your kind letter gave me, and I remember it to have been the first enjoyment of the kind which any one had afforded me after I left Boston; and therefore it was that I felt a guilty flutter, upon taking up my pen just now to do what ought not to have been omitted thus long without reason, which I was trying to give to *myself* in the first lines above.

The business which deprived me and mine of your good company in Boston has robbed me also in Baltimore, at times, of my customary pillow-visitor; but I have such a hope of things being now in a proper train, that sweet sleep will resume the place which sour care has occupied for a season. Cannon and ammunition are in forwardness for Ticonderoga, and some new levies are actually arrived there: so that, if it is not already invested, we may be well prepared for a spring attack. The lake was not frozen at our last information; nor did the small-pox prevail in the garrison, though there was some appearance of that distemper.

The enemy in the Jerseys have been long liable to be destroyed by any considerable army of vigor. I am not able from any regular returns to say what *number* we have had ; and you are as good a judge as I can be as to spirits.

High expectations have been formed here of good news from Rhode Island, where there can be only a small inimical force ; but a letter which I have just received from Providence puts an end to those expectations.

It is plain that we must look for another summer's bloody work ; and though I cannot say it is absolutely certain that there will be foreign diversions in our favor, yet I think the appearances of such an event are many and encouraging. As to supplies of arms and clothing, there is no doubt that we shall be well off in a few months, even to a surplus ; but we must set out with what can now be collected by industry in each State of the Union, by purchase or loan or impressments.

It is judged altogether impossible for Howe to move this way by land, for want of forage and horses ; the quantity and number of which ought to be accurately ascertained, in secret modes of intelligence, by our General.

Confusion to the wretches who broke in upon your intended rural scheme of life ! Historians, poets, and painters unite to direct us from noisy capitals to country retirements, for the greatest felicity within the allotments of this habitable planet. I had often formed wishful prospects of spending some future part of my days as a farmer, before old age should unfit me to set an industrious example in that course of life to my dear boys : but I was obliged, like you, to make a proviso for my beloved partner, "if it should be her choice ;" for, without an union of sentiment in such connections, no alteration of an habitual course of living could be crowned with felicity. May the scenes of war, rapine, and murder, from which, in generous patriotic resolution, you have scorned to hide yourself, be soon at an end ! and may they eventually, in contrast with the future fulfilment of your former rural plan, be productive of a vast increase of happiness !

In Baltimore, I had the satisfaction of dieting in the same family with Colonel Whipple. Here we have taken lodgings together. This circumstance tends much to alleviate the great vexation which is the product of my mission to this part of the continent. Our landlord is Mr. George Duncan of Boston. But it is the landlady

which determined me in this land of strangers. Tell my friends and Polly Middleton's friend that Mrs. Duncan *formerly was* a Ran, the pretty daughter of Parry. The marked words, simple as they appear, caused many a fat laugh for your charming wife some years ago. Though past years, and the laughing irritability peculiar to them, will not return, yet let us hope together for a lengthy series of more rational pleasures, calm and philosophic, in our after-course through what the splenetic call "this vale of tears."

The remnant of this sheet will suffice to contain in words the profession of an affectionate regard for you and your dear Hannah, which no extent of separation from you can alter, and which is really heightened by my misfortunes, lately threatening to cut me off from all opportunity of asserting myself

Your friend and humble servant,

JAMES LOVELL.

James Lovell to Joseph Whipple.

JULY 29, 1777.

MY DEAR SIR, — Perhaps it is from my attachment to New England that I do not give into the determination that Howe is certainly coming into the Delaware with his fleet, which has appeared off the Capes ; but I still imagine he has other designs. I hope the alarm-list in the Eastern States will be ready to give amusement and opposition to him, if he should take a turn that way, till they shall be joined by Continental troops. For though we have not near the army voted to be in the field, yet you may be assured we have a fine body, in good spirits, and giving signs of the best discipline, as our committee just returned from camp affirm among friends ; for it is thought best to say little yet. There were in the Jerseys and at Peekskill eighteen thousand, besides cavalry and many troops which were not in the rolls, but which we know have since gone, or are at work on this river ; making upwards of twenty thousand. I think, just at present, this should not be public. If Howe is coming here, it is under circumstances more in favor of Philadelphia than will again happen. The brave Jersey militia, who have been balked of fighting at home as much as they wish, will be as good or better here than Continental. The last fight from duty ; the first, from a spirit of revenge.

The States-General of Holland made a too humble reply to York's saucy remonstrance ; and Lord Suffolk was sarcastic to Count

Welderen in a responsive letter of the 10th of April, in which he tells the count that his majesty's *expectations* are fulfilled by the *recall* of De Graaf, and a *disavowal* of the insult complained of. People in Holland and elsewhere are dissatisfied with the *humility* of their *high-mightinesses*.

From the report of an English packet being taken and carried to France, we are wishing to hear from our commissioners more than usually. It cannot be long, I think, before we shall have a vessel from France. The Southern coast is too much used: our Eastern country affords more certain ports. I shall be punctual in letting your brother know of any interesting arrival, though I may not always accompany my letters to him by a distinct written proof of my love and esteem of you and your lady as now.

Your humble servant,

JAMES LOVELL.

James Lovell to Joseph Whipple.

FEB. 6, 1778.

DEAR SIR,—I will not make so little use of your many friendly professions, and your knowledge of the perplexing multiplicity of affairs which naturally lay before Congress, as now to make any further apology for not before answering your very obliging letter of Dec. 29, than by telling you, that there have been very few delegates, and very many foreigners at Yorktown for some time past.

I hope the enclosed resolve will prove a sifter to many vermin who are eating Continental bread. Virginia is acting with her wonted spirit in filling up her quota, and furnishing five thousand volunteers to open the next campaign, besides providing for the army both clothing and food. They have also a test. Maryland not only excludes non-jurors from office, but subjects them to treble taxation. This last is peculiar to Maryland; but I think it a very good example for other States. You will have seen what we have done in regard to the affair of retaliation which you mentioned, and also how far we have exceeded your hints about Burgoyne.

It is high time that we should show that we feel independence as well as profess it. We long ago instructed our commissioners to show, under the authority of our signature, that we had not treated, nor would ever treat, with Great Britain upon any other footing but our declaration of July 4, 1776.

France is playing a lucrative game ; but it is by no means the highest she has in her power to play : and I think, by every account from the West Indies, she has already cut the cards for dealing. We have been robbed of our despatches of October, either in France or on the passage. But I am sure, from Dr. Franklin's letters to myself, that there could be no bad news in the public packet. He writes as gayly as a man of middle-age on general topics.

Salute, for me, her who most of all women will welcome you with such a commission. She does not know from how much honest love I give it ; therefore will place all the value to your credit.

I will not now write to the Brigadier ; therefore tell him that J. D. Sergeant and Mr. Patterson are to assist at the trials on the Ticonderoga affair : so that Congress have done all that was proper, though the event may not answer the too warm expectations of such as were highly chagrined at perhaps inevitable losses.

I am, sir, very affectionately, your humble servant,

JAMES LOVELL.

From Robert Morris to the Governor of New Hampshire.

OFFICE OF FINANCE, PHILADELPHIA, July 25, 1781.

SIR, — I had the honor to write to you on the 16th inst., enclosing a certified copy of the account of your State as it stands in the treasury-books of the United States. I now pray leave to recall your attention to it. It gives me very great pain to learn that there is a pernicious idea prevalent among some of the States, that their accounts are not to be adjusted with the Continent. Such an idea cannot fail to spread listless languor over all our operations. To suppose this expensive war can be carried on without joint and strenuous efforts, is beneath the wisdom of those who are called to the high offices of legislation. Those who inculcate maxims which tend to relax these efforts, most certainly injure the common cause, whatever may be the motives which inspire their conduct. If once an opinion is admitted, that those States who do least and charge most will derive the greatest benefits and endure the smallest evils, your excellency must perceive that shameless inactivity must take the place of that emulation which ought to pervade and animate the whole Union. It is my particular duty, sir, while I remind my fellow-citizens of those tasks which it is incumbent on them to perform, to remove, if I can, every impediment which lies in the

way, or which may have been raised by disaffection, self-interest, or mistake. I take, therefore, this early opportunity to assure you, that all the accounts of the States with the United States shall be speedily liquidated, if I can possibly effect it; and my efforts for that purpose shall be unceasing. I make this assurance in the most solemn manner; and I entreat that the consequences of a contrary assertion may be most seriously weighed and considered before it is made or believed. These accounts naturally divide themselves into two considerable branches; viz., those which are previous, and those which are subsequent, to the resolutions of Congress of the 18th March, 1780. The former must be adjusted as soon as proper officers can be found and appointed for the purpose, and proper principles established, so as that they may be liquidated in an equitable manner. I say, sir, in an equitable manner; for I am determined that justice shall be the rule of my conduct, as far as the measure of abilities which the Almighty has been pleased to bestow shall enable me to distinguish between right and wrong. I shall never permit a doubt that the States will do what is right; neither will I ever believe that any one of them can expect to derive advantage from doing what is wrong. It is by being just to individuals, to each other, to the Union, to all; by generous grants of solid revenue, and by adopting energetic methods to collect that revenue; and not by complainings, vauntings, or recriminations,—that these States must expect to establish their independence, and rise into power, consequence, and grandeur. I speak to your excellency with freedom, because it is my duty so to speak, and because I am convinced that the language of plain sincerity is the only proper language to the first magistrate of a free community.

The accounts I have mentioned as subsequent to the resolutions of the 18th March, 1780, admit of an immediate settlement. The several States have all the necessary materials. One side of this account consists of demands made by resolutions of Congress long since forwarded: the other must consist of the compliances with those demands. This latter part I am not in capacity to state; and, for that reason, I am to request the earliest information, which the nature of things will permit, of the moneys, supplies, transportations, &c., which have been paid, advanced, or furnished by your State, in order that I may know what remains due. The sooner full information can be obtained, the sooner shall we know what to rely on, and how to do equal justice to those who have contributed, and those

who have not ; to those who have contributed at one period, and those who have contributed at another. I enclose an act of the specific supplies demanded of your State, as extracted from the journals of Congress, though without any mention of what has been done in consequence of those resolutions ; because, as I have already observed, your excellency will be able to discover the balance much better than I can. I am further to entreat, sir, that I may be favored with copies of the several acts passed in your State since the 18th March, 1780, for the collection of taxes, and furnishing supplies or other aids to the United States, the manner in which such acts have been executed, the times which may have been necessary for them to operate, and the consequences of their operation. I must also pray to be informed of so much of the internal policy of your State as relates to the laying, assessing, levying, and collecting of taxes.

I beg leave to assure your excellency, that I am not prompted either by an idle curiosity or by any wish to discover what prudence would dictate to conceal. It is necessary that I should be informed of these things ; and I take the plain, open, candid method of acquiring information. To palliate or conceal any evils or disorders in our situation can answer no good purpose : they must be known before they can be cured. We must also know what resources can be brought forth, that we may proportion our efforts to our means, and our demands to both. It is necessary that we should be in condition to prosecute the war with ease before we can expect to lay down our arms with security, before we can treat of peace honorably, and before we can conclude it with advantage. I feel myself fettered at every moment, and embarrassed in every operation, from my ignorance of our actual state, and of what is reasonably to be asked or expected ; yet when I consider our real wealth and numbers, and when I compare them with those of other countries, I feel a thorough conviction that we may do much more than we have yet done, and with more ease to ourselves than we have yet felt, provided we adopt the proper modes of revenue and expenditure. Your excellency's good sense will anticipate my observation on the necessity of being informed what moneys are in your treasury, and what sums you expect to have there, as also the times by which they must probably be brought in. In addition to this, I must pray you to communicate the several appropriations. A misfortune peculiar to America requires that I entreat your excellency to undertake one more task ;

which, perhaps, is far from being the least difficult. It is, sir, that you will write very fully as to the amount of the several paper currencies now circulating in your State, the probable increase or decrease of each, and the respective rates of depreciation. Having now stated the several communications which are most indispensable, let me entreat of your excellency's goodness that they may be made as speedily as possible, to the end that I may be early prepared with those propositions, which, from a view of all circumstances, may be most likely to extricate us from our present difficulties. I am also to entreat that you will inform me when your Legislature is to meet. My reason for making this request is, that any proposals to be made to them may arrive in season for their attentive deliberation. I know that I give you much trouble; but I also know that it will be pleasing to you, because the time and the labor will be expended in the service of your country. If, sir, my feeble but honest efforts should open to us the prospect of American glory; if we should be enabled to look forward to a period, when, supported by solid revenue and resource, this war should have no other duration or extent than the wisdom of Congress might allow, and when its object should be the honor, and not the independence, of our country; if, with these fair views, the States should be roused, excited, animated, in the pursuit, and, unitedly determining to be in that happy situation, find themselves placed there by the very determination; if, sir, these things should happen, and, what is more, if they should happen soon, — the reflection, that your industry has principally contributed to effect them, would be the rich reward of your toils, and give to your best feelings their amplest gratification.

With the most respectful esteem, I have the honor to be your excellency's most obedient,

R. M.

Thomas Dwight to John Lowell.

SPRINGFIELD, Dec. 13, 1786.

DEAR SIR, — I reached home last evening; found that the insurgents, in small parties, were passing all yesterday through this town, on their return to their respective homes; and about seventy or eighty have passed this morning. They appear rather chopfallen than otherwise; are unable to inform us what has been done, or why they are dismissed. Some of them, however, I perceive, consider General Ward and *Hon. Moses Gill* as under promises

of honor to give themselves up to Mr. Shays, whenever called on ; provided Shattuck, Parker, and Page are not released from their confinement, according to request made by a committee of the insurgents, in which request *they say* they were joined by the judges of the Common Pleas of Worcester. You will remember, sir, these were but reports, perhaps fabricated, without much foundation in fact. The stage has not yet reached this town : by it you will probably receive ample accounts. No person has been here within these three or four days from Shays's rendezvous, but such as are of his party or devoted to his service : our accounts, therefore, we conceive to be very imperfect.

The road from Hartford to this place, on the east side of the river, is very good from the upper part of Windsor : below that, very bad ; the inhabitants having been long accustomed to wait until travellers break roads for them.

I cannot conceive there will be the least danger in your returning to Boston by this road. You need but see the tameness of the poor storm-beaten lads that are returning, to be convinced they have lost all intentions of offering injury to anybody.

Be pleased, sir, to make my compliments to Mrs. Lowell ; and believe me, with the greatest respect,

Your humble servant,

THOMAS DWIGHT.

Henry Gibbs to — Whipple.

BOSTON, March 21, 1733-4.

— WHIPPLE.

SIR, — I received yours *per* the carrier, with the piece of cloth, and shoes and pattoons : and, as to the shoes and pattoons, my spouse sends them back, lest you should lose the sale of them, by reason that none of them would suit my spouse ; and she would have sold them for you, but could not. And, as to the cloth, it won't do to send any more of it, by reason of the price.

Yesterday, we had a brigantine from — in five weeks, and there was a ship in five weeks there from England, which say there is not like to be war, and that the men-of-war are hauled up there ; but we don't give much credit to the news at present. We are daily in expectation of news from England. We have had town-meetings for above a week, about fortifications : and we have voted to have one built upon the flats between the South Battery and the Castle,

three hundred feet long and thirty feet wide, to mount twenty pieces of cannon ; the end of the Long Wharf fortified with a breastwork, and mount seven guns ; the end of Clark's Wharf also to mount six guns ; and an addition to the South Battery, and well fortified. For which the town have voted ten thousand pounds at present ; and to complete the work, I suppose, will take as much more, and to provide stores of war. This town has voted a market in this town, in three places ; viz., one at the South End, one at the Old North Meeting-house, and one at the Town Dock. They are going about them with all speed to erect market-houses, and the town have voted that the selectmen further . . . ; which is a perplexing thing. Just now, Captain Wakefield is come from the Isle of Man, but brings no news. I am sorry to hear that you have hurt your leg, but happy it is not very bad. My spouse and self send love to you and spouse. From your friend and servant,

HENRY GIBBS.

Mr. LIVERMORE, in calling attention to a new volume of the Society's Proceedings for the years 1858-1860, copies of which were placed on the officers' table, offered the following votes, which were unanimously passed ; viz. :—

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to James Lawrence, Esq., for the beautiful engraving of his father-in-law, Mr. Prescott, executed at his expense, for the new volume of the Proceedings.

Voted, That the Society express their gratitude to their associate, Leverett Saltonstall, Esq., for the fine portrait of his ancestor which forms the frontispiece of the new volume of Proceedings.

Voted, That the Standing Committee be authorized to continue the publication of the Society's transactions.

On motion of Mr. LOWELL, it was *voted*, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Messrs. Robbins

and Livermore, who have had in charge the publication of the transactions of the Society, for the very satisfactory manner in which they have performed that duty.

M. Mignet of France was elected an Honorary Member of the Society; and Hon. William R. Staples, of Rhode Island, a Corresponding Member.

The Chairman of the Standing Committee, Hon. EMORY WASHBURN; the Treasurer, Hon. RICHARD FROTHINGHAM, JUN.; the Librarian, Rev. Dr. LOTHROP; and the Cabinet-keeper, Dr. SHURTLEFF, — presented their Annual Reports; which were read and accepted.

Annual Report of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee congratulate the Society upon the general success which has attended it during the past year. With few incidents worthy of special notice to mark its history, its affairs have gone on with entire harmony, and with a good degree of prosperity. It has sensibly felt the loss of the constant attention and able and efficient aid which its President has been accustomed to lend to its interests; and although his place, as a presiding officer at its meetings, has been most acceptably supplied by the Vice-Presidents, the Society could not have failed to regret his absence, and will not fail to rejoice at his return to a post which he fills with so much dignity, usefulness, and acceptance.

In view of the inconvenient hour at which the stated meetings of the Society are held, the goodly number which has regularly convened on these occasions is a gratifying evidence of the estimation in which the Society and its purposes are held by its members. If its meetings and its transactions are less blazoned through the press than they deserve, it may

be ascribed to a severe taste, and a general desire on the part of its members that the Society should pursue its course in an unostentatious manner.

The Committee cannot forbear to allude to the remarkable number of eminent names which have been stricken from the roll of our members during the past year. Choate, Carey, Gilpin, Hallam, Humboldt, Irving, Macaulay, De Tocqueville, Rush,—men crowned with various honors and virtues, each and all more or less illustrious in their respective departments of literature or science, many of them of a world-wide fame,—these have, one after another, been made the subjects of special commemoration and eulogy. What year, of this or any other society, was ever signalized by the loss of so many distinguished associates?

Two only of our Resident Members have died during the year, and eleven have been elected: so that the Society now consists of ninety Resident Members.

Although no volume of Collections has been published during the year, it is believed that the work of preparing and publishing one has commenced under favorable auspices. A volume of transactions is presented to the Society to-day by the Committee who have had it in charge; which, it is hoped, will be found interesting and valuable. The Committee, moreover, are able to congratulate the Society upon the completion of so desirable a work as a Catalogue of the printed books of the Society. It is in two volumes, beautifully executed, forming as complete a work of the kind as could be reasonably desired; and reflects great credit upon the skill, industry, perseverance, and good taste of the Committee under whose superintendence the work has been accomplished, through the immediate agency of Dr. Appleton, the Assistant Librarian.

It is a most valuable key to the treasures of the Society, which every member ought to possess; and it is to be confidently hoped that means will be shortly devised, by which the

unpaid balance of the original expense of about twenty-five hundred dollars attendant upon the work may be cancelled.

The condition of the funds will appear from the Treasurer's Report. Though presenting a balance upon the wrong side of the account, there is nothing in that circumstance to lead to any apprehension, that with economy, and the ordinary degree of favor which the Society has hitherto enjoyed, its indebtedness may not soon be cancelled, and means for a more extended usefulness, ere long, be in its possession.

The permanent property of the Society remains as at the last Report, with the exception of what has been done to reduce the debt charged upon their real estate, and the additions made to the library.

Among the interesting relics and memorials of the past in possession of the Society are the two swords recently confided to their keeping; the presentation of which, and the deeply interesting remarks on the occasion, form a part of the present volume of transactions. During the current year, these have been arranged with great taste by a Committee who had the same in charge; and now, surmounted by the names and armorial bearings of Prescott and Linzee, they form a beautiful and most interesting decoration to the walls of our library.

Long may they repose there, united by an olive wreath! — an emblem of the harmony that should ever prevail where men of generous minds come together for liberal purposes and kindred aims.

The Committee would be unjust if they failed to remind the Society of the obligation they are under for the cheerful, unpaid, and faithful services of their Secretaries, their Treasurer, their Librarian, and Cabinet-keeper; and, while it might seem invidious to speak of the active usefulness of individual members in promoting the interests of the Society, the Chairman of the Standing Committee would be doing injustice to his associates if he failed to bear unqualified testimony to the

promptness and assiduity with which they have answered every call, and volunteered every service in their power which could promote the success and usefulness of the Society.

The Society, in conclusion, have renewed cause for congratulation, as they recur to the experience of the past, at the favorable auspices under which they are to commence a new year of their existence.

With an increase of numbers, with an increase of means, and a constantly growing demand for the results of the labors and influence of just such men as are enrolled upon their catalogue, it may not be an inappropriate close of this Annual Report, to remind the gentlemen of the Historical Society, that, as stewards of a noble treasure, the world has a right to expect that the coming year shall bring forth richer and more abundant fruits than that which is now brought to a close.

EMORY WASHBURN, *Chairman.*

Annual Report of the Treasurer.

In compliance with the request of the Standing Committee, the Treasurer presents the following statement of the financial condition of the Society :—

GENERAL ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL, 1860.

DEBITS.

Balance due Treasurer	\$312.37
Interest to Suffolk Savings Bank	1,630.33
John Appleton's Salary	699.96
George Arnold's Salary	516.36
Printing Proceedings	731.46
Sundries	195.11
Insurance	187.50
Boston Taxes	194.00
Printing and Binding	169.90
Historical Trust-fund	180.00
Coal	70.12
Repairs	119.00
Show Case	47.00
	<hr/>
	<u>\$5,053.11</u>

CREDITS.

Rent of Suffolk Savings Bank	\$2,200.00
Income of Dowse Fund	600.00
Assessments	375.00
Admission Fees	70.00
Sales of Society's Publications	588.28
Tax of Suffolk Savings Bank	194.00
Copyright and Sales of Life of John Quincy Adams	248.10
Balance due the Treasurer	777.73
	<u>\$5,053.11</u>

THE APPLETON FUND.

This fund consists of ten thousand dollars, which was presented Nov. 18, 1854, to the Society, by the executors of the will of the late Samuel Appleton, on the condition that its income shall be applied to the purchase, preservation, and publication of historical material. Volumes three and four of Fourth Series of the Society's Collections were printed from this fund; and the amount paid for copying, the past year, is a portion of the expense of the fifth volume, now going through the press. It is invested, as it was received from the executors, in the stocks named below.

Account ending April, 1860.

DEBITS.

Paid for copying	\$226.62
Balance in Treasurer's hands	1,203.61
	<u>\$1,430.23</u>

CREDITS.

Balance of the Account of 1859	\$570.23
Dividends on 2 Shares of Amoskeag Company	160.00
" " 2 " " Stark Company	160.00
" " 1 Share " Appleton Company	100.00
" " 1 " " Hamilton Company	80.00
" " 1 " " Merrimack Company	100.00
" " 1 " " Cotton Mills	80.00
" " 1 " " Suffolk Company	80.00
" " 1 " " Manchester Prints	100.00
	<u>\$1,430.23</u>

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL TRUST-FUND.

This fund consists of two thousand dollars, presented to the Society, Oct. 15, 1855, by Hon. David Sears; the annual income of which may be expended in certain specified objects, as the Society may, by special vote, direct.

Account to April, 1860.

DEBITS.

Paid Suffolk Savings Bank on the Society's Note of \$27,500,	\$500.00
Balance in the Treasurer's hands	30.57
	<u>\$530.57</u>

CREDITS.

Balance of Account of 1859	\$350.57
Income to March 1, 1860	180.00
	<u>\$530.57</u>

THE DOWSE FUND.

This fund, of ten thousand dollars, was presented to the Society, April, 1857, by the executors of the will of the late Thomas Dowse; and it is invested in a note signed by Edward Hyde and O. W. Watris, secured by mortgage on real estate. The income, six hundred dollars, is used for heating the library-room, insurance on the library, and a portion of the salary of the Librarian.

THE CATALOGUE FUND.

This is a special fund, raised by subscription, to print the Catalogue of the Society's Library, which has just been completed.

DEBITS.

Paid John Wilson and Son, on account of the Catalogue	\$1,191.03
	<u>\$1,191.03</u>

CREDITS.

Balance of old Account	\$163.93
Subscriptions received	850.00
Balance due the Treasurer	177.10
	<u>\$1,191.03</u>

PROPERTY OF THE SOCIETY.

The Estate on Tremont Street.—The Society purchased, March 6, 1833, of the Provident Savings Institution, the second story and one-half of the attic story of this building, for \$6,500; and on the 13th of March, 1856, the remainder of the interest of this institution, for \$35,000. A portion of this was paid by subscription; and, for the remainder, the Society mortgaged the whole estate to the Suffolk Savings Bank for Seamen and Others, for \$27,500. Five hundred dollars were paid on this note the past year. The lower floor is leased to this bank for fifteen years from March 1, 1856, for \$2,200 per year.

The Library, Paintings, and Cabinet.—The library consists of about eight thousand bound volumes, and thirteen thousand pamphlets.

The Society's Publications.—These consist of the thirty-four volumes of the Collections, two volumes of Proceedings, and two volumes of the Catalogue, — about six thousand volumes, — which are for sale.

The Appleton Fund, of ten thousand dollars.

The Massachusetts Historical Trust-fund, of two thousand dollars.

The Dowse Library.—This library was presented to the Society by the late Thomas Dowse, and consists of about five thousand volumes.

The Dowse Fund, of ten thousand dollars.

The Copyright of the "Life of John Quincy Adams."—This was presented to the Society by Hon. Josiah Quincy.

THE INCOME.

The income of the Society consists of an annual assessment, on each Resident Member, of five dollars, or, instead, the payment of sixty dollars; the admission-fee, of ten dollars, of new members; the rent of the lower floor of the Society's

building; the income of the Dowse Fund; the sales of the publications of the Society, and the sales of the "Life of John Quincy Adams." There is no income for the purchase of books; nor, indeed, is there a reliable income at all adequate to the proper maintenance of an institution of so much public interest and utility.

RICHARD FROTHINGHAM, Jun., *Treasurer.*

Boston, April 9, 1860.

Annual Report of the Librarian.

Boston, April 12, 1860.

The Librarian, in conformity with the rule which requires him at the annual meeting to present a statement of the condition and wants of the library, with a notice of the important accessions that have been made to it during the year, respectfully submits the following Report:—

The whole number of additions to the library, during the past year, is one thousand seven hundred and eighty. Of these, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-six were donations: fifty-four volumes were obtained by purchase. Of the donations, there are one thousand two hundred and seventy-four pamphlets, three hundred and thirty-one bound volumes of books, forty-seven bound volumes, and one unbound, of newspapers, sixteen broadsides, forty-eight single numbers of newspapers, four maps, two prints, and four manuscripts. In the number of separate items, the addition to the library is larger than in any previous year, but not so valuable nor so interesting as those of the last two or three previous years. Among the most valuable of them may be mentioned seven volumes of newspapers, presented by Rev. Dr. Lamson; sixteen volumes of documents relating to public schools of the city of New York, presented by Richard Warren, Esq., of that city; an atlas of the English Colonies in America, presented by Count Jules de Mena; two volumes Senate and

Executive documents, by State Department; thirty-three volumes of newspapers, containing various consecutive volumes of the London "Times," London "Evening Mail," the "National Intelligencer," the Washington "Globe and Union," presented by Thomas Aspinwall; eleven volumes of tracts, containing numerous general and artillery-election sermons and other interesting pamphlets, presented by Rev. Charles Lowell, D.D.; one beautiful reprint of "Syllacius De Insulis," &c., and several beautiful reprints of tracts relating to Catholic missions in this country; panoramic view of Boston in 1775, taken by Lieutenant Williams, of the British Army, from a view by Lieutenant Woods, whose original draught was presented to the king (this copy is presented by I. Carlton Brevort of New York); Dr. Purple's medical works, presented by the author; a *fac-simile* of the titlepage of "The General Historie of Spaine," London, 1612 (our copy of this work being without a titlepage, Mrs. G. R. Babcock, of Buffalo, N.Y., drew a *fac-simile* from a copy in the library of her husband; and by him it was presented to us, and now occupies its appropriate place in the volume); "Diplomatic Correspondence of the American Revolution," twelve volumes, and second series of "American Biography," fifteen volumes, presented by Mr. Sparks. Without enumerating them, it may be stated, that President Felton, and Professors Longfellow, Parker, and O. W. Holmes, have presented to the library complete sets of their publications; and care has been taken by all the members to furnish us with a copy of whatever they have published.

Among the valuable books obtained by purchase or exchange, and worthy of special notice, are Dugdale's "Monasticon," eight volumes; Rushworth's "Historical Collections," eight volumes; Thurlow's "State Papers," seven volumes.

Of the manuscripts that have been added to our already valuable collection, one is a letter of Governor Hutchinson to T. Goldthwait, 1771, presented by Mr. Minot; another is one

hundred and twenty-six letters, of a miscellaneous character, addressed to Judge Lowell, presented by Rev. Dr. Charles Lowell; another is the observations of the merchants of Havre de Gros on the commerce of foreigners with the French West Indies, presented by Hon. Josiah Quincy; and another is extracts from the diary of Thomas Newell, in 1774, presented by Hon. Edward Everett.

All the donations that have been received have been acknowledged and catalogued. The number of volumes taken out of the library during the year is two hundred and eleven. All have been returned in good order, except a copy of Heath's "Memoirs," taken out by Hon. Charles Hudson, which will be replaced whenever another copy can be procured.

The Librarian would earnestly call the attention of the Standing Committee and of the Society to the importance, the imperative necessity, of more shelf-room. A large number of valuable books are piled upon tables, or packed away in places where they are not easily accessible.

Respectfully submitted.

S. K. LOTHROP, *Librarian*.

Annual Report of the Cabinet-keeper.

In fulfilling the requisition of the By-laws of the Society, by which the condition of the museum must be made known at the annual meeting, the Cabinet-keeper submits the following as his Report:—

During the past year, the increase of the cabinet has been somewhat larger than in the few previous years. Many articles of considerable historical value and antiquarian interest have been added to the already interesting collection of articles which form the museum of the Society. These have been announced and noticed, from time to time, at the stated

meetings of the Society, as they have found their way to the historical rooms ; and, therefore, individually require no special mention at this time.

Since the last annual meeting, another show-case has been procured, in which have been placed, for general inspection, many of the smaller and more curious relics belonging to the Society ; yet it is much to be regretted that the finances of the Society have not been in a condition to warrant the expenditure of money for the fitting-up of a separate room, to be devoted entirely to the preservation and display of the treasures of the association. It is hoped, that, when more pressing calls for the expenditure of money have been met, an appropriation for this purpose will be made.

The Cabinet-keeper has the satisfaction of reporting, that, although all the articles under his care are not in a proper condition for exhibition, they are nevertheless safely kept, no loss having occurred to the museum during the past year.

Having held the office of Cabinet-keeper for a period of six years, and feeling that there are other members of the Society, who are not only less engaged than himself, but better qualified for the trust, the present incumbent requests that he may be relieved from the further duties and responsibilities of office, and that another may be elected in his place.

Respectfully submitted,

NATHL. B. SHURTLEFF,

Boston, 12th April, 1860.

Cabinet-keeper.

On motion of Mr. R. FROTHINGHAM, Jun., it was *voted*, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Rev. Chandler Robbins, D.D., and Charles Deane, Esq., the Committee for publishing the Catalogue of the Society's Library, for the very gratifying manner in which they have completed this laborious work.

The following gentlemen were elected officers of the Society for the ensuing year ; Dr. Shurtleff having declined to be a candidate for the office of Cabinet-keeper.

President.

HON. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, LL.D. BOSTON.

Vice-Presidents.

JARED SPARKS, LL.D. CAMBRIDGE.

HON. DAVID SEARS, A.M. BOSTON.

Recording Secretary.

REV. CHANDLER ROBBINS, D.D. BOSTON.

Corresponding Secretary.

JOSEPH WILLARD, A.M. BOSTON.

Treasurer.

HON. RICHARD FROTHINGHAM, JUN., A.M. CHARLESTOWN.

Librarian.

REV. SAMUEL K. LOTHROP, D.D. BOSTON.

Cabinet-keeper.

SAMUEL A. GREEN, M.D. BOSTON.

Standing Committee.

CHARLES DEANE, A.M. CAMBRIDGE.

HON. SOLOMON LINCOLN, A.M. HINGHAM.

HENRY A. WHITNEY, A.M. BOSTON.

COLONEL THOMAS ASPINWALL BOSTON.

LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, A.M. NEWTON.

On motion of Mr. ELLIS, it was *voted*, That the thanks of the Society be presented to the Hon. Emory Washburn, who has just retired, in course, from his post as Chairman of the Standing Committee, for the efficient services he has so cheerfully rendered to the Society during the past year.

On motion of Mr. LIVERMORE, it was *voted*, That thanks be presented to Dr. Shurtleff for his useful labors as Keeper of the Society's cabinet.

Mr. SPARKS presented a stamp used in the time of the Stamp Act, — a gift to the Society from Benjamin Moran, Esq., Assistant Secretary of the United-States Legation in London in 1859.

MAY MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting of the Society was held this day, Thursday, May 12, at noon; JARED SPARKS, LL.D., one of the Vice-Presidents, in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the Chicago Historical Society; Harvard College; the Essex Institute; the State of Connecticut; the New-York Agricultural Society; the Peabody Institute; the Tennessee State Library; the State of Rhode Island; the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries; the Smithsonian Institute; Union College; General J. W. De Peyster; Rev. Caleb D. Bradlee; Henry B. Dawson, Winthrop Sargent, L. A. Huguet Latour, James Lenox, and Richard Warren, Esqs.; and from Messrs. Deane, Lamson, Quint, Robbins, Sibley, Washburn, and Winthrop, of the Society.

In the absence of the Corresponding Secretary, the Recording Secretary read letters from the Librarian of Bowdoin College and the Trustees of the Boston Athenæum, acknowledging the Society's attention in presenting the last volume of the Proceedings and the Catalogue to those institutions; also a letter from Hon. William R. Staples, of Rhode Island, accepting Corresponding Membership.